

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Catholic Church

The Presbytery, 22 Devon Place, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4DR
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 Rev. Fr. Matthew Achunine, OP.
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St David's Catholic Primary School

West Cross, Swansea, SA3 5TS
 Tel 01792 512212
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 'Love God, Love Learning, Love Life'

SOME MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE LIVESTREAMED

Date & Liturgical Celebration	Time	Mass Intention
Sunday 9th January The Baptism of the Lord	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Maureen Davies, RIP (E D) Gloria Lewis, RIP (T O'D) Clare Wilson, RIP (D W) Parish Community
Monday 10 th January	10.00am Mass in Townhill	
Tuesday 11 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Maureen Davies, RIP (T & A L)
Wednesday 12 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	David Davies, RIP Anniversary (C B)
Thursday 13 th <i>St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</i>	7.00pm (Livestreamed)	Intention of Margaret Faulkner (J & A M)
Friday 14 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Maureen Davies, RIP (J M)
Saturday 15 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10.00am (Livestreamed)	Davies, McGinty & Harris Families, RIP (A F)
Sunday 16th 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Maureen Davies, RIP (P F) Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (G C) Parish Community Special Intention of E K (E K) O/L Lamp: The Jones & Kneath Families

CONFESSIONS: Saturday morning after 10am Mass, Saturday evening 6pm-6.15pm, and on request.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Menna Evans, Don Mason, Martin Garry, Eileen Kennedy.

DONATIONS TO THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA: Although not ship visiting at the moment, Carolyn and Paul Curren can take donations to Fr Paul in Milford Haven who has many ships to visit. Any donations will be gratefully received. Please leave a message for Carolyn on 01792 547787 and she will collect from your home or the Church when she returns from Caldey, usually about once a month. She has recently delivered four bags of hats from Sheila and Wyn. Thank you very much.

WE REMEMBER THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND, AND THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS: Isabelle Gilfedder, Bill Gill, Claire Clancy, Roy Miller, Frank Bowen, Michael Guerin, Theresa Plunkett, Kath Bowling, Doris Renninghoff, Frances Traylor, Rosemary Ronan, Mary Brearley, Audrey Robinson, Maria Davies, Angela Matthews, Millie Richards, Janet Blackburn, Eleanor Scowcroft, Yvonne Richards, Maria Watkins, Peter McPherson, Heather Ellis, Bernard Gregory, Janice Jones.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Pat Davies, Peter Jones, Peter Quinn, and John Grant who have passed away recently. May the Lord grant them eternal rest and give comfort to their families.

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME: Thomas Cummings, Johanna O'Donoghue, Terence O'Brien, Nesta Morris, Ken Falvey, Terrence Sullivan, Vicky Hunt, John Weaver, Muriel Morris, Gwyneth Thomas, Wendy John, David Davies, Angela O'Bree, Helena Mary O'Bree, Fr. Richard Appleyard, Ashon Macari, Canon David O' Flynn, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Stuart Price, Fr. Laurence Devine, Edith Irwin, Eileen Jenkins.

SUNDAY OFFERING: £850 (includes standing orders). Thanks for your generosity.

DONATIONS FROM ONE CARD FOR ALL: £105.20 Proceeds towards St David's School.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY: In January, we pray with Pope Francis that those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution may have their own rights and dignity recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: We are invited to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Who Work to Combat It; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; The Unemployed

St Thomas Aquinas on the Hail Mary “Full of grace”

The Blessed Virgin was superior to any of the Angels in the fullness of grace, and as an indication of this the Angel showed reverence to her by saying: “Full of grace.” This is as if he said: “I show you reverence because you do excel me in the fullness of grace.”

The Blessed Virgin is said to be full of grace in three ways. First, as regards her soul she was full of grace. The grace of God is given for two chief purposes, namely, to do good and to avoid evil. The Blessed Virgin, then, received grace in the most perfect degree, because she had avoided every sin more than any other Saint after Christ. Thus it is said: “You are fair, My beloved, and there is not a spot in you” [Sg 4:7]. St. Augustine says: “If we could bring together all the Saints and ask them if they were entirely without sin, all of them, with the exception of the Blessed Virgin, would say with one voice: ‘If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.’ [1 Jn 1:8]. I except, however, this holy Virgin of whom, because of the honour of God, I wish to omit all mention of sin” [*De natura et gratia* 36]. For we know that to her was granted grace to overcome every kind of sin by Him whom she merited to conceive and bring forth, and He certainly was wholly without sin.

She exercised the works of all the virtues, whereas the Saints are conspicuous for the exercise of certain special virtues. Thus, one excelled in humility, another in chastity, another in mercy, to the extent that they are the special exemplars of these virtues—as, for example, St. Nicholas is an exemplar of the virtue of mercy. The Blessed Virgin is the exemplar of all the virtues.

In her is the fullness of the virtue of humility: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord” [Lk 1:38]. And again: “He has looked on the humility of his handmaid” [Lk 1:48]. So she is also exemplar of the virtue of chastity: “Because I know not man” [Lk 1:34]. And thus it is with all the virtues, as is evident. Mary was full of grace not only in the performance of all good, but also in the avoidance of all evil. Again, the Blessed Virgin was full of grace in the overflowing effect of this grace upon her flesh or body. For while it is a great thing in the Saints that the abundance of grace sanctified their souls, yet, moreover, the soul of the holy Virgin was so filled with grace that from her soul grace poured into her flesh from which was conceived the Son of God. Hugh of St. Victor says of this: “Because the love of the Holy Spirit so inflamed her soul, He worked a wonder in her flesh, in that from it was born God made Man.” “And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God” [Lk 1:35].

The plenitude of grace in Mary was such that its effects overflow upon all men. It is a great thing in a Saint when he has grace to bring about the salvation of many, but it is exceedingly wonderful when grace is of such abundance as to be sufficient for the salvation of all men in the world, and this is true of Christ and of the Blessed Virgin. Thus, “a thousand bucklers,” that is, remedies against dangers, “hang therefrom” [Sg 4:4]. Likewise, in every work of virtue one can have her as one’s helper. Of her it was spoken: “In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue” [Sir 24:25]. Therefore, Mary is full of grace, exceeding the Angels in this fullness and very fittingly is she called “Mary” which means “in herself enlightened”: “The Lord will fill your soul with brightness” [Is 48:11]. And she will illumine others throughout the world for which reason she is compared to the sun and to the moon.

St Thomas Aquinas, *The Angelic Salutation*

COVID ADVICE: To reduce the risk of spreading COVID, please do NOT attend Mass if you feel unwell or have any symptoms of a cold, no matter how mild. Instead, follow our livestreamed Mass. Also, we remind those attending Mass that face masks should be worn over the nose and mouth. Thank you.

Face Covering at Mass: In keeping with Welsh Government guidance, face coverings must be worn at Mass by adults and children aged 11 and over. The face covering may be removed in order to receive Holy Communion. By wearing a face covering you will be helping to protect others.

How to Pre-book Sunday Mass Attendance: To book a place at Sunday Masses, please contact **Madeline Ahearne** on phone or email (01792 361194; madelineolss@aol.com) or send an email to the Parish email address mumbles@menevia.org. Please provide your name, the number attending Mass, and contact phone number when you book. This record will be held for 14 days (COVID track and trace).

Livestreamed Masses: Masses are livestreamed from our Parish (weekday Masses and Sunday 10.30am Mass). For a link to livestreamed Masses please go to our Parish website www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk and click "Livestream" on the menu bar. You can also find us on **YouTube** by searching for **Our Lady Star of the Sea Mumbles**

Our Catholic Primary School: Our local Catholic Primary school is **St David's** on West Cross Avenue, a welcoming and happy school where children are cared for and nurtured to develop educationally, spiritually and emotionally. The contact details for St David's are at the top of this Newsletter - do get in touch to secure a place for your child.

Email: 6703303_stdavidscatholicprimaryschool@hwbcymru.net or phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter: @stdavidscps.